

Gloria Dei Church *(321 Market Street)*
Christian and Water Streets
Philadelphia, Penna.

HABS PA - 120

HABS
PA
51-PHILA
174-

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Pennsylvania

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

HISTORICAL AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Joseph P. Sims, District Officer
2008 Architects Building, Philadelphia, Penna.

HABS PA - 120

MASS
PA
CLIP, A
151-

GLORIA DEI
OLD SWEDES CHURCH
On South Water Street
between Swanson and Front
Philadelphia, Pa.

Owner - Protestant Episcopal Church

Date of Erection - 1700-1703

Architect - Unknown

Builder - Rev. Andrew Rudman

Present Condition - Excellent

Number of Stories - Clearstory with gallery and small wings

Materials of Construction - Brick walls laid in Flemish bond with black headers, all cornices, trim, windows, sash, etc., of wood. The main entrance from the Churchyard has a large deeply panelled doorway with dog-eared trim. In this entrance vestibule is the stairway leading to the gallery, and it is surmounted by a wooden belfry. The roof is of tin. The simple interior, low pews and galleries are restrained in detail, and painted white. A lengthy architectural description is probably unnecessary as complete measured drawings have been made and deposited in the Library of Congress.

History - Some of the materials used in this building were brought from the earlier Swedish Church at Tinicum, built in the 17th Century, and Gloria Dei was erected by the same carpenters and bricklayers who had built the new Church at Fort Christina. A rude blockhouse stood on this site in 1669, and was later used by the pious Swedes for religious services, beginning in 1677. The present building was dedicated in 1700, on ground given by Catherine Swanson. The last Swedish pastor was the Rev. Dr. Nicholas Cullin, who arrived from Sweden in 1771, and whose death in 1831

HABS

FA

51-PHILA

707-
174-

ended all connection of the American Swedish Church with that of Sweden. Of much interest in the center aisle in front of the Chancel, is the Tomb of the Rev. Andrew Rudman, the learned missionary sent over by Charles XI of Sweden, and the builder and first pastor of the new Church.

Many of the possessions of the Church, such as the Baptismal Font, the Gutenberg Font of 1650, and the wood carvings of Cherubims in the organ loft came from the earlier Swedish Church at Tinicum. The old bell at Tinicum Church, brought over from Sweden in the Ship "Fama" in 1643, and which had summoned the early settlers on the Delaware to worship for over half a century was placed in the belfry of the new Church. The bell was recast in 1806 but contains the original tongue and contains the following inscription:

"Cast for the Swedish Church in Philadelphia stiled Gloria Dei. G. Hedderly fecit, 1806, partly from the old bell dated 1643: I to the Church the living call, and to the grave do summons all."

Bibliography - Paxson's "Where Pennsylvania History Began"
Brandt's "Byways and Boulevards in and about Historic Philadelphia"

August 31, 1937

Joseph P. Sims

Joseph P. Sims, A.I.A.
District Officer

DATA NOT CONTROLLED AND NOT GUARANTEED
BY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

W 9/3/37

Addendum to:

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes Church)
929 S. Water Street
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-120

HABS
PA,
51-2411A,
174-

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240